

Hale (S. M.)

A CRITICAL PERIOD FOR HOMŒOPATHY.

E. M. HALE, M. D., CHICAGO.

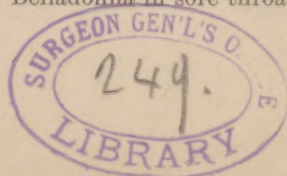
[From *American Homœopathist*, November, 1877.]

It must appear to the most superficial observer in the homœopathic school that the present is a most critical period in its history. In fact, there is absolute danger, unless some line of action which shall place our school in a different position—a position to avert the crisis, or modify its effects; that we shall soon be threatened by absorption into the allopathic school.

This may appear a startling statement to many, especially those who have not watched closely the signs of times. Let us look boldly at the facts. There are many of our most prominent men who, in correspondence and in private conference, have expressed to me the same sentiment I have written above. The editor of the *Cincinnati Medical Advance*, the astute Dr. T. P. Wilson, evidently has very clear ideas about the crisis, as any one will see who reads his editorial in the October number, in which he republishes the remarkable paper by Dr. Dessau (allopath), on the Value of Small and Frequently Repeated Doses. Those who have not read that paper will be astonished to learn that Dr. Dessau, following after Ringer, of England, advises *minute* doses of Ipecac for vomiting; Arsenic for acute gastritis; Capsicum for gastric catarrh; Alum for the vom-

iting of phthisis; Antimony and Tartar emetic for dyspnoea and cough with mucous rales; Mercurius cor. for dysentery, etc. The doses of these remedies are smaller than any allopath has heretofore dared to use. A similar paper was read before the National Medical Associations, which met this year in Chicago. In the various allopathic journals, during the last two years, papers on therapeutics have appeared in which were advocated medicines in doses not stronger than our 1x or 3x dilutions. I know of at least twenty prominent allopathic physicians in the city of Chicago who daily prescribe Aconite, Belladonna, Nux vom., Pulsatilla, and many more of our distinctive remedies, in doses smaller than our 1st and 2d dilutions and triturations; and they carry in their pockets medicine cases of a pattern nearly the same as are sold in our pharmacies. They only avoid the globule for fear of being called homœopaths.

Dr. Ringer, of England, and Routh, of Scotland, were the first to openly advocate minute doses of drugs. They do not mention the name "homœopathy" in connection with these doses, except to disclaim any intention to sanction it, and explain the curative action of Aconite in fever, Belladonna in sore throat, and



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Ipecac in vomiting, by assuming a "stimulating" action, or a "substitution," or "electric affinity." After these came Dr. Phillips.

Dr. Phillips is an apostate from our school, who, not willing to be ostracized by his old comrades, the allopaths, went back to them and wrote a materia medica in which he put nearly all our old, and many of our new remedies, and explained their action on non-homœopathic grounds, and recommended doses as small as the majority of English homœopaths prescribe.

These writers in England are having an immense influence, and are rapidly changing the whole tenor of all allopathic practice in that country.

It is this impending revolution in allopathic ranks that induced the well-meaning Dr. Wyld to write his letter to Dr. Richardson. Dr. Wyld seeks to avert the threatened absorption of homœopathy into allopathy, and the abuse of him by Drs. Lippe, Skinner and Berridge has been uncourteous and unwarranted. In a recent letter now before me, from Dr. J. Murray Moore, of England, he speaks of the impending danger as one of very grave aspect.

One of the most remarkable and significant signs of the times is the fact, that not one word of remonstrance against the recommendation of small doses, of perfectly homœopathic remedies, has yet been raised by any member of the allopathic school!

Are the members of our school aware that for several years *the* repre-

sentative man in the eclectic school, Professor Scudder, of Cincinnati, has openly advocated the use of all our remedies in minute doses? In his most popular work, *Specific Remedies*, he takes up in order all our polycerests—and even our "anti-psorias"—and gives the specific indications for them, evidently copying them out of Hahnemann and other standard homœopathic authorities. His influence with the eclectic school is almost universal, and as a result, four-fifths of that school are using our remedies according to strict homœopathic indications, and their cures are worthy of a place among the clinical records of the early days of homœopathy.

Another representative man, Prof. I. J. M. Goss, M.D., of Macon, Ga., has recently published a materia medica in which he briefly takes up all the standard eclectic, allopathic and homœopathic remedies, and in nearly all cases recommends them in minute doses, and their application according to the law of *similia*.

One of the most recent and the most glaring encroachments of allopathy, was made recently by Dr. James I. Tucker, of Chicago, who, in an article on Colocynth, written for and published in the *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*, recommends that medicine for *enteralgia*. After admitting that, in large doses, Colocynth will cause excessive abdominal pain, and that it affects specifically the colon, he says: "In spite of this I am going to announce a fact, which I am able to fortify by an ar-

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ray of cases that have come under my personal observation. I state without fear of contradiction *that Colocynth will allay the pain caused by excessive peristaltic action better than any drug in use, not excepting Opium, provided it be used in the proper dose.*" The proper dose, according to this really learned and excellent allopath, is "just enough of the tincture in water to make it *slightly bitter.*" Taking this estimate he cannot use more than one-tenth of a drop to a glass of water—about the 3d attenuation. And now, already, since the publication of his article only a week ago, I learn that all the prominent allopaths of Chicago, and presumably in the country roundabout, are prescribing Colocynth for colic, as Hahnemann *first* recommended it sixty years ago!!

Now in view of these important movements of other schools, *What is the danger to Homœopathy?* Various persons will have various opinions. The most enthusiastic will claim that the opposite school *are being converted to homœopathy.* But this will never be admitted by them, for they will never allow the truth of our law of *similia.* Even when they arrive at the condition where they have incorporated all our remedies and our small doses into their practice, they will never admit the truth of the homœopathic law. And what is more important, the *public* will not see or believe that the allopaths are becoming homœopaths. It may appear strange to the present genera-

tion of allopathic patrons, but another generation will become accustomed to the change and think it a part of the regular practice; and if they make as good cures as we do, the public will give them the preference because their medicine will have a "little taste and color." A portion of our school who take a despondent view of affairs affirm that the great allopathic anaconda will swallow, entire, the homœopathic school, or, like the infusorial Hydra, will gradually enfold us by its yielding mass, and slowly absorb us.

Dr. Ad. Lippe, who represents the most fossilized wing of the radicals of our school, hoists the black flag of "no quarter to absolute liberty of thought and action," and intimates that any homœopath who does not practice as he pretends Hahnemann did, namely, *with the single remedy and the minimum dose*, should immediately separate from the homœopathic school. In anticipation of this event which he evidently believes is near, he has evolved the Utopian scheme of becoming a second Noah, and building an ark, which he will name *The Organon* (a new medical journal), will try to save himself and a few of the faithful, namely, such men as Skinner and Berridge, of England, who are to embark in his ark with him, and thus escape the threatened deluge of "free thought and action"—and allopathic appropriation of homœopathic remedies, and possibly our law of *similia.* But Dr. Lippe's schemes will come to

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naught. His ark will be laden with incredible and impossible reports of cures of tremendous diseases with the 40^m of Lac canium, or Luna 70^m, or Sol. 200^m, and after sailing in cloudland a year or two, will settle upon the mountains—a stranded wreck.

But these questions remain unanswered: How are we going to retain our cherished remedies? How are we to keep pace with the grand strides in all the sciences and arts which pertain to medicine, and still retain all the valuable characteristics of the homœopathic school?

I confess that I am unable to an-

swer any of the above questions. They are too important to be dismissed with a sneer; too important to be met with abuse and vilification.

If any one of our school will approach the subject with a proper appreciation of its importance, and can treat it candidly and fearlessly, let him enter the list. For myself I can only hope that the crisis may result in a medical millennium, when there will exist but one medical school which shall possess the sublime Art of Healing, about which there shall exist no strife, and no more unseemly wrangling.

